(b) if so, what are th$_e$ details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z . R. ANSARI): (a) and (b) Government of India in Ministry of Urban Development have issued orders advising Government Departments to encourage use of non wood materials including synthetic materials in buildings in order to conserve forests.

GATT negotiations at Uruguay

1651. SHRI SHAMIM HASHMI-Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the trends of GATr Negotiations going on in Uruguay;

(b) whether it is a fact that U.S. Government are holding out a threat to block the imports from developing countries if they do not strengthen their patent acts in line with the American wishes:

(c) what are the salient features of the brief given to the Indian Delegation participating in the GATTdelibe-rations: and

(d) how Government are going to safeguard the national interest about our fo'reign trade?

THE MINISTER, OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHT): (a) The Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations launched in September, 1986 are the most diversified and com. plex multilateral trade negotiations eld so far. The trend of the negotia-ms has been that the progress has i | slow in the areas of interest to d loping countries while attempts ar leing made to accelerate progress on v issues which a're of importance to developed countries.

(t t is true that the Government of tl. Jnited States of America is treat! lack of adequate protection of intellt Jual property rights' as a basi$_s$ for imposing trade sanctions.

(c) India considers thes$_e$ negotiations as an opportunity for stemming, erosion of the GATT system and wants. to preserve the basic principles ol GATT and strengthen its multilateral rules and disciplines. We ar$_e$ anxious to ensure that the flexibility available to developing countries in the use of trade policy measures and the recognition of the need$_s$ for special and differential treatment for them are preserved and further strengthened. We also feel that developing countries should not be required to make concessions that are inconsistent with their i developmental, IfLnancial and trade needs. India's stand in the Uruguay Round is guided by these approaches. However, multilateral trade negotiations like the Uruguay Round involve complex negotiations and the position to be adopted by India on each of the subjects covered by these negotiations would have to be evolved on the basis of developments in the coming years.

(d) India would strive to safeguard its interest by seeking that any new multilateral disciplines that ar$_e$ developer take due account of its national policies and objectives. Efforts are also being made to widen the support for the Indian point of view by trying to coordinate positions with other developing countries.

Surrender of Policemen accused in Ram swarup Case

1652. SHRI SHAMXM HASHMI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that die-policemen who were absconding in the case of Ram Swarup since September 16, 1988 have since surrendered as reported in the Times of India of the 27th October, 1988 andjhat two policemen ar$_e$ still absconding; and

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that the two absconding accused are doing so with police connivance and if so, what steps have been taken so far to trace them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. Efforts have been made by Delhi Police to arrest the accused. Sea~ch for them was made at various places in Delhi. Police parties were also sent to their native places in Aligarh and Mathura Districts.

Agricultural credit given by banks

1653. DR. YELAMANCHILT SIVAJI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the annual agricultural credit given by all the public sector rentage of their total advances in the decade ending March, 1988;

(b) whether Government propose to increase such percentage from the current vear onwards as a special case to help farmers to cope up with their drought related problems;

(c) what is the annual public sector "bank lending to agricultural secto$_r$ as a percentage of the value of gross annual agricultura[1] production;

(d) what is the estimated quantum of loans ava^ed annually by the farmers from private money lenders;

(e) what steps are being taken by Government t$_0$ eliminate such lending; and

Cf) ho$_w$ much of th$_e$ agricultural credit extended bv the public sector banks is in the form of crop loans and what is the amount released as gO'M loan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO' FA-LEIRO); (a) The percentage of Agri culture Credit in the 'total outstanding •advances of public sector banks from „ year ending December 1979 to December 1987 is set out below:

December 1979	12.5
December 1980	18.1
December 1981	17.0
December 1982	16.2
December 1983	16.8
December 1984	17.4
December 1985	18.2
December 1986	18.1
December 1987	19.1

(b) The RBI had advised all scheduled commercial banks to improve the share of Direct Agriculture Advances in total bank credit to 15%i by the^ end of March 1985 and to 16% by the end of March 1987. The banks have been further advised to increase the share of Direct Agriculture Advances in total bank credit to 17% by the end of March 1989.

(c) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House to th$_e$ extent possible.

(f) Th$_e$ present reporting system does not yie'd information pertaining to gold loans as a part of crop loan separate^. However, the data for short term agricultural loans (including crop loans) outstanding in respect of all scheduled commercial banks for 3 year perfod ended June 1986 are give$_n$ below:

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Year ended June	No. of A/cs.	Balance Outstand-ing
1984	5962699	163758
1985	.6317454	196419
1986	7229092	235544